



# The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



## Vote For Your Gun Rights



The Florida early in-person voting runs until October 31st, 9am to 6pm, and you can vote in any of your County's polling places during early voting. We are encouraging everyone to vote early, with new safety procedures its safe. Election day is November 3rd with voting 7am to 7pm and you must vote in your assigned polling place.

# VOTE

We must all get out and vote and encourage our family and friends to vote - support our 2nd Amendment.

## Presidents Corner

It didn't seem like the day would ever come, but our club is back in business, having held our first seminar and first member meeting after several months of COVID-19 restrictions. I would like to thank each of our members who attended these



meetings for their cooperation with our necessary face mask requirement.

Our shooting programs continue to fill up despite the ammo supply diminishing daily... (how do you go below zero supply?) I am always looking for suggestions regarding sources of ammunition (9mm/.22LR).



Keep an eye out for an announcement about a new Facebook Group... You will need to have a facebook account, so if you do not have one, go ahead and get set up if you want to be in the group.

Chuck Wildzunas  
President



## Next Member Meeting

Reservations & Masks Required see the VSS Website for details

**Eisenhower Rec Center**  
**Monday, November 23rd, 6:30 to 8:00 pm**  
**Savannah**  
**at Rec Center**  
**Tuesday, November 24th, 6:30 to 8:00 pm**  
**Topic: Gifts for Gun Nuts**



**Donor Award: Glock 44 .22LR**

## Savannah – Monday, December 28th Combined Meeting - 6:30 to 8:00 pm

**Donor Award:  
S&W M&P 9EZ  
9mm Compact  
Topic: More  
Hollywood Guns**



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### US Congressman Webster Visit

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At the October 26<sup>th</sup> VSS Club meeting US Congressman Dan Webster gave a short speech and question and answer session. He spoke of how COVID -19 is hampering the legislative process in the House of Representatives. Nancy Pelosi is slowing down the voting process even further by limiting the number of Congressmen allowed in the House chamber at a time. After a limited number of Congressmen vote, the chamber has to be cleaned before the next group comes in. Now just to get a simple yes or no vote takes 4 hours,

He also praised the club for its support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment, which is especially important to the country at this time.

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### The Laws of Self-Defense

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by Terry Marksberry

If you decide to carry a concealed weapon, you would best not leave home without understanding the laws that apply to a self-defense incident and certainly, carry insurance.

We'll talk about insurance in a future article. There is little rationale to successfully defending your life and then spending the rest of it incarcerated with your family bankrupted.

As discussed in previous articles, lethal force may **ONLY** be used to defend an immediate threat to your life or avert great bodily harm (broken bones, disfigurement, unconsciousness).

Therefore, if you have used lethal force it must have been done in a self-defense situation. There are five criteria that you must prove to claim self-defense legally.

1. Innocence (non-aggressor)
2. Immediacy (Imminence)
3. Proportionality (Parity of Force)
4. Avoidance (Duty to Retreat)
5. Reasonableness

You must prove all five with a preponderance of evidence whereas the prosecutor must only disprove one of them beyond a reasonable doubt for your self-defense claim to fail on court.



The first pillar is **Innocence**. This means you cannot be the aggressor who initiated the conflict that degenerated into a lethal confrontation. If you find yourself in a conflict with another individual that is getting heated, be smart, just walk away. To be safe, also indicate verbally that you are disengaging – it helps to have a witness.

The **Immediacy** pillar means that the threat to your life was occurring at the exact time you employed lethal force to stop the threat. The best way to explain this is to relate a car-jacking incident. A young man was sitting at a traffic light and was pulled from the car at gunpoint and thrown to the ground. The perpetrator then turned his back and walked to get into the car not knowing the victim was legally armed. The young man drew his gun, shot and killed the perp. The young man went to jail for a very, very long time. Why?

First when the perp turned and walked away, he disengaged and the young man's life was no longer in immediate danger. At the point the young man drew his gun, he became the aggressor. Secondly,

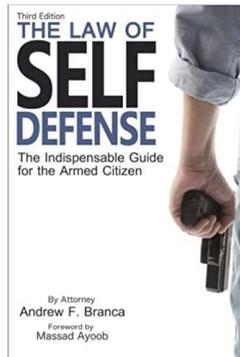
he was protecting his property (the car), not his life, with lethal force which is not legally justified.

**Proportionality** or parity of force is simply the criteria that you cannot employ more force than is threatened against you. Guns and knives are considered lethal weapons and you may respond accordingly. A spoon or badminton racket are not considered lethal and you may only respond with non-lethal force such as pepper gel, stun gun, or another spoon! 😊 Other items, such as a baseball bat or tire iron, may be considered lethal depending how they are utilized.

**Avoidance** or Duty to Retreat is pretty much a non-issue in Florida which has a strong Stand Your Ground law. This means that, if threatened, you may stand and defend yourself rather than retreat. Other states, without such laws, often go to the extreme where you must even retreat from your own home before confronting an intruder.

**Reasonableness** is the most nebulous pillar of the bunch. The question is: would another person given the same knowledge, background, experience and training as you act in the same manner in the same situation? In other words, did you act in a reasonable manner?

A detailed presentation on this topic is offered usually once a year in a club meeting or seminar. If you carry a concealed firearm or other weapon it is highly recommended that you purchase the book “The Law of Self Defense” by Andrew Branca. Read it cover to cover! It does not contain a lot of legalese but may keep you out of jail.



**When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty.” Thomas Jefferson**

## Instructor’s Corner

By Steve Mosel

(These articles are the opinions of the writer only and in no way reflect official positions of the Villages Straight Shooters - or anyone with good sense for that matter - SM)

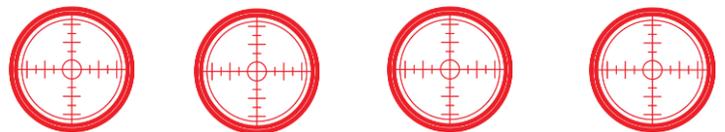


## “Benjamin Franklin and Me”

Analyzing this latest kerfuffle life has thrown at us, I try to be positive about the whole mess and am in admiration of those who brand it all a “gift of time”. If you’re



at all like me, it has, indeed, been an opportunity of sorts to rifle through the flotsam that’s buried deep in the nether regions of closets and what passes for an attic in The Villages. Admittedly, I may have gone a little overboard at times, kind of like a two-year old attacking his birthday cake, tearing into the dusty old boxes, some of which still have the original mover’s tags and half-disintegrated tape that has long-since turned an eerie yellow/brown hue. Although not exactly King Tut’s tomb on the discovery scale, this exercise has, none the less, yielded a few surprises as well as items long sought after and once thought lost to the moving company gods. One such item was a mysterious brown paper bag, rolled up and taped to a fare-thee-well. The contents had some heft to them, but the shape was undecipherable. So I got out the large scissors and went at it. The final fold of paper was pulled aside and there it was! My long-lost Benjamin air pistol!



Before we go on, I'll play Don Frazier and give you a brief and hopefully relevant history of the company: In 1882, Walter R. Benjamin, of St. Louis, MO., introduced the Company's first air rifle. It was manufactured by the Wissler Instrument Company of St. Louis, but under Benjamin's patent. In 1902, the Benjamin Air Rifle Company was formed and – to jump way ahead - was ultimately purchased by Crossman in 1992. My particular model is called a "Benjamin Franklin" and was manufactured between 1938 and 1941. It's often referred to as a 'Grasshopper Pump' due to its shape resembling a grasshopper leg. What little dollar value it had was destroyed long ago by yours truly by taking the blued finish back down to what I thought was a much more attractive brass. As you can see by the pix, I also made my own target-shooter's grip and baseplate to fit my big paws and those eagle-eyed readers may even notice the .22 caliber cartridge cases stuck into the screw holes. Why? Haven't a clue. I probably thought it looked cool.



Anyway, almost as soon as I discovered my old friend, I checked my ammo supply and, sure enough, I had kept .177 caliber pellets from my days with the Villages Air Gun Club (highly recommended, especially if you want to improve your trigger control!). I loaded up big Ben – one shot at a time – and thunk/clang! That special air-gun sound rang out in my garage as the pellet left the pistol and hit the old bullet trap I had set up just short of 30 feet away.



Although my custom grip was ideal for one-handed shooting, I could still comfortably shoot it with two

hands if so desired. Despite its age, it ran flawlessly. (I do have a vague memory of having it refurbished at one time.) With one small adjustment of the rear sight, it was surprisingly accurate as well, as soon as I figured out how many times I needed to pump the beast. The only argument I might have with its creator was in his Glock-like numbering system. The model number is a 117. Sort of perfect if you're dyslexic and firing a .177 caliber pellet!

So you never know. Sometimes things that are apparently negative may open up other doors. As a shooter, I was thrilled to discover yet another avenue with which to keep my skills from becoming downright pitiful during my stay at home. I've always admired Ben Franklin, possibly above all the other Founding Fathers. And now, once again, he's become a part of my own family!

**“There’s no such thing as a good gun. There’s no such thing as a bad gun. A gun in the hands of a bad man is a dangerous thing. A gun in the hands of a good person is not danger to anyone except the bad guys.” Charlton Heston.**



### The Reticle®

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